

# Cabinetmaker

**Average salary: \$49,400+**  
**Career trend: some decline**

## Job description

With a history dating back thousands of years, cabinetmakers use their passion for carving and sculpting wood to produce furniture and fittings that are a lasting pleasure. You'll design, fabricate, assemble, and install wooden furniture including unique stand-alone pieces or built-in items like kitchen cupboards. There are two streams within this a) the cabinetmaker that works primarily in a factory or b) The kitchen and Bathroom stream that manufactures and installs.

## What cabinetmakers do

Cabinetmakers manufacture freestanding and built-in furniture or units using raw wood as their main material. Generally working on high quality commercial or residential projects, they use complex materials and construction methods to focus on the intricacy and aesthetic of the wood they're working with to bring out its natural characteristics.

Cabinetmakers design, interpret or adapt designs prepared by others. They measure a client's space, cut, assemble, install and finish their pieces to a high standard.

Producing furniture and fittings in a workshop then installing the fitted items on site, cabinetmakers work with a vast array of hand tools such as laminate trimmers, cordless drills and jigsaws and larger tools like table saws and drum sanders. They also use wood, glue, nails, screws, dowels, and other fasteners.

Cabinetmakers can be self-employed or employed by furniture manufacturing and repair companies, construction firms or cabinetmaking contractors.

## You'll like this job if...

You enjoy creating with your hands. You're a good communicator. You value innovation and creativity. You like working autonomously. You're organised. You can concentrate for long periods of time. You pay attention to detail. You can visualise a finished product from blueprints. You're physically fit. You can lift heavy items.



## Will I get a job?

- Some decline in this occupation is predicted, with the loss of 700 jobs in Australia in the next four years, bringing the total to 31,200.

## What will I earn?

- \$951 to \$1,100 median full-time weekly salary (before tax, excluding super).

## Roles to look for

- Cabinetmaker
- Furniture maker

## A day in the life...

Work as a cabinetmaker may involve these tasks:

- examine drawings, work orders and sample parts to determine specifications
- select and work with materials such as timber, veneers and particle board
- mark out, cut and shape wood
- May use heavy machinery such as CNC and Computerised Routing/processing machines, panel saws and edge-banders.
- work from drawings and specifications to make furniture
- make fittings for boats, caravans and other items where fine detail is required
- assemble parts to form sections of furniture and completed articles
- fit hinges, locks, catches, drawers, and shelves
- make frames for chairs and couches
- repair and refurbish furniture and antiques as required.

## VET qualifications

The following government-subsidised qualification is available in NSW:

### **Certificate III in Cabinet Making (MSF31113)**

- Up to 4 years full-time
- Available as a fee-free apprenticeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 97.4%\*

### **Certificate III in Furniture Making (MSF30213)**

- Up to 3 years full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 87.9%\*

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### Main employing industries

- Manufacturing

### Other jobs you may like...

- Designers of Kitchens & Bathrooms
- CAD Operators
- Production Managers (Quality Assurance)
- Project Managers
- Licensed Installers
- Wood machinist
- Wood trades worker
- Carpenter and joiner

**Information sources** Income: Australian Government Department of Employment, Australian Jobs Report 2017, Occupation Matrix. ANZSCO ID: 2211. Earnings can vary greatly depending on the skills and experience of the worker, and the demands of the role. Job prospects: Australian Government Department of Employment 2017 employment projections to May 2022. Graduate outcomes: National Centre for Vocational Education Research. \*Approximately 6 months after they completed VET.

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